

Anniversary Celebration 2004 - Birth of TAA

This year we again celebrated the birth of Australia's premier airline, the first airline to provide services to all the people in all areas of Australia.. A good crowd of 90 plus people attended. This year a good night was made better by the additional incentives of numerous prizes donated by generous supporters of your club.

This year our major prize of a DVD player and three movies was donated by British Airways,

6 bottles of 'top shelf' spirits donated by Independent Distillers of Laverton, and although the winter season has finished I am sure that these will be used to prevent the likelihood of 'catching a cold'.

Numerous other 'prizes' of carry bags and umbrellas were donated by Cathy Pacific and Air New Zealand, and a glass 'punch bowl' from Beta Electrical of Hoppers Crossing. Your Club donated a dozen bottles of wine to increase the number of 'give aways' and all attendees enjoyed the draw and the evening.

A little touch of nostalgia was evident on the night as all the table attendants and bar manager were dressed in TAA hostess and a male uniform of the era of the 60's. It was a real nostalgia trip for those employees who worked at an airport or city office during this era.

The trainee manager and MC for the function spent a lot of time and effort in creating table and menu identities using the TAA insignia and screens from the Australian landscape, and menus similarly identified the reason for this celebration. The meal was enjoyed by all and allowed conversations to meander back to recover the memories of great times during the working life of the attendees.

We are extremely grateful to British Airways and Independent Distillers, and all donors who assisted in making this a memorable evening, and the staff at William Angliss for this participation and efforts.

This evening was again made possible by the efforts of the Events Committee who have laboured throughout the year to organise outings for our club members – A special thank you to Ross McDonald and Frank Sullivan for their efforts, and I am pleased to say that we have not as yet been disappointed by the attendances – the spirit remains strong.

A little bit of history

Did you know that TAA was the first overseas airline to introduce the Convair 240 VH-TAQ, and the first airline to be given a licence to operate the aircraft with an all up weight of 40,500 lbs.

It was not a good start, TAA had to cancel the first three days of operation due to an engine problem which created a high noise level (interference) with the radio equipment, and when it did operate the Convair became bogged (delayed for one hour) at Sydney Airport. It did however quickly recover from these set backs and quickly became the preferred aircraft by the business and travelling community.

TAA was the first airline in the world to achieve 10,000 hours once introduced. Not all bad.

Staff Travel revisions for employees currently on the TN scheme

As from 1 October 2004, the fares charged on Qantas services for all TAA and Australian retired staff, who remain in the 'previous' Australian Airlines/TAA Travel scheme, will change to a standard QEA fare, replacing the current ID90 and ID95 fares. For your information the QEA fare is not subject to change when commercial fares increase. The changes to the sector fares will have little affect on the overall cost of your ticket. On some flights you will pay a little more and on other flights you will pay a little less.

The Qantas QEA fares are reviewed on a regular basis but have not changed for many years. What has changed in recent times is the taxes which are required to be paid on all tickets. Following is an example of a Melbourne - Sydney - Melbourne staff ticket for both economy and business, using the QEA fare.

<u>Sector 2</u>	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Sector 2</u>	<u>Business</u>
Melbourne - Sydney	30.00	Melbourne - Sydney	36.00
Sydney - Melbourne	30.00	Sydney - Melbourne	36.00
Noise Tax	3.40	Noise Tax	3.40
Dom Pax Charge	15.46	Dom Pax Charge	15.46
Security Charge	4.29	Security Charge	4.29
Total	89.15	Total	102.35
GST	8.32	GST	9.52
Grand Total	91.47	Grand Total	104.67

You are reminded that TN retired staff do not have access to Jetstar services . Therefore, with very limited Qantas services operating to/from Tasmania and the Gold Coast in particular, this will mean that travel will be quite restricted under your current staff travel scheme, as Jetstar now operate the majority (and in some cases all) services on these routes.

The offer to transfer to the Qantas 'Star' scheme is still open, which means that if you do transfer you will have access to Jetstar services.

Travel under the 'Star' scheme is not an unlimited timeframe. For example, if a staff member retired in 1990 with 30 years service, their staff travel benefits would last to the year 2020 (ie. 30 years service equals 30 years benefit). On the 'Star' scheme widows and widowers retain benefits for a period of 5 years after their partner (ie. retiree) has deceased.

Staff transferring to 'Star' also have access to Qantas overseas travel.

Any further information required call your Club on Wednesday or Thursday between 10am - 2pm On 86962692 or Frank Sullivan Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday on 9416 0261.

Australian air Express

TN employees who moved to Australian air Express (AaE) are advised of the following –

1. employees who transferred to AaE, and had a minimum 10 years service with TN, are provided a redundancy travel benefit equal to those employees who actually took a redundancy from TN (with the same years of service). This travel benefit will remain whether they stay with AaE or terminate from AaE.
2. employees who transferred to AaE, and had less than 10 years service with TN, are provided a redundancy travel benefit of 2 x 90% discount trips per annum. This travel benefit ONLY remains available whilst they remain employed by AaE.
3. the ID90 & ID95 fares will be replaced by QEA fare effective 01.10.2004

A letter has been sent to all TN retirees to clarify the proposed changes

Thanks

A number of photographs and documents received from Rita Webb wife of Capt. Ron Webb (deceased), covering their years in New Guinea and on the mainland will be added to our collection. This is in addition to the early engineering training manuals and notes from Ted Dewey also now added to the engineering collection. Sincere thanks to you and your families for these contributions .

STAARS – Moonee Valley Luncheon - NOVEMBER 2004

The last meeting for the year 2004 will be held on Tuesday 16th of November commencing at 12.00 hours. New members are welcome and the last one in August saw over 160 ex staff gather for chat and some story telling. Lance Irwin (9386 4056) or John Edwards (9337 3810) would like to hear from you if you are attending as it helps with meal preparation and seating arrangements. ALL WELCOME

Wings Away – Flying Tales to Tell

Queensland branch of Wings Away, the nationwide organisation of ex Hostesses (Flight attendants) have donated 25 copies of their publication covering the years of flying by many of its members and reminiscences of years gone by. It makes a good read and recalls many familiar faces and many stories that made TAA a unique airline. These are on sale at the museum and can be purchased when you visit the museum or if requested one can be posted out - cost \$15.00 plus \$4.90 postage

Complement

August proved to be an interesting month. A telephone call from an interior designer from Sydney, who has been commissioned to formulate a layout for the possible relocation of the Qantas Sydney Historical repository at the Sydney Terminal, identified that she had been directed to our facility, as we are recognised within the Museums Australia Group.

We have over the years commenced to network with other aviation bodies including Point Cook, which is to be the national aviation site with a working airport, and with the Sydney QANTAS facility, staffed by people like George Roberts who is 93, and Ted Milligram, not a great deal younger, both dedicated, loyal historians. We agreed to assist, and it was an interesting meeting as the interior designer, Angela Ferguson was aware that TAA operated as the major domestic airline when she was quite young and recalled our "Up, Up and Away" theme song, but as to our history her knowledge was quite limited.

After a thorough tour of our facility, and although we are cramped for space, Angela had a better appreciation of the methods employed when we conduct tours of our museum. It was explained that tours and some of the techniques enable school groups, senior citizens organisations including the disabled, and aviation enthusiast groups to get a better understanding of our history.

We also offered future assistance (if required) and the benefit of our experienced members who helped designed and create our facility.

Joke A new young monk arrives at the monastery. He is immediately assigned to help the other monks in copying the old canons and laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript.

The new young monk goes to the head abbot to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up, in fact the error would be continued in all subsequent copies.

The head abbot replies " We have been copying from copies for centuries but you make a good point my son.", and so the head abbot goes down into the dark caves below the monastery where the original manuscript is held in a locked vault that has not been opened for hundreds of years.

Hours go by and nobody can find the head abbot, so the new young monk gets worried and also descends into the caves, where he finds him banging his head against the floor. His forehead is bloodied and he is crying uncontrollably. The young monk seeks to comfort the old man and asks "What's wrong father?" The old man raises his bloodied and tear stained face and in a choking voice wails
"the word is CELEBRATE!"

National Library of Australia Grant 2003.

Last year we received \$3,000.00 from the National Library of Australia under the Heritage Grant Scheme. This has enabled us to purchase approved materials for the preservation, storage and handling of our "still photography, negatives and 16mm film" and we have commenced to assess our needs regarding all film recovered by the Club. Ron Adams is our still and negative photographic expert, and is now in the reprocessing mode transferring the negatives to the new storage and preservation containers/units, amending the existing inventories, allowing easier recognition for reproduction as required.



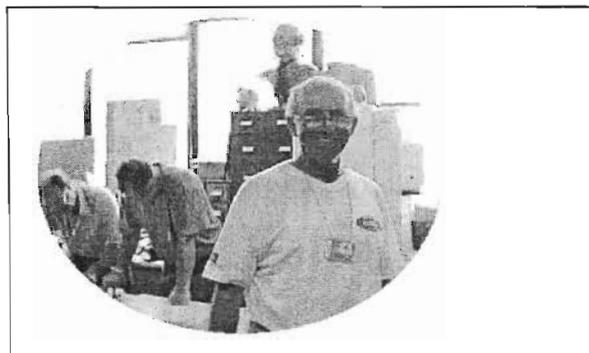
Angela with one of our 'models' amid our memorabilia.



Ron Adams, happy in his work. Photographed at the Museum not the Club on the way home.

We have submitted for another grant in 2004.

This time the need is for the 16mm film and we purchased a conversion box to allow this film to be re-photographed using a digital camera which we have also purchased. We are now in the process of gaining experience and some training with this procedure, with the ambition of permitting conversion to modern media methods such as CD-ROM and DVD.



ff Fry is our 'motion' picture man, but we could also do with additional assistance, even if it is only to do the 'assistant' tasks as it is particularly time consuming when the film needs to be assessed for quality and the requirements and methods for the conversion and preservation of the film. Two helpers would be ideal, so if you have the inclination and one day a week or fortnight, then we would appreciate your help.

That crew on the Gold Coast – The TAARMAC CLUB

Visiting Queensland next year? then keep in mind that our 'band of loyal supporters', headed by Col Funch, Reg Weller and Adrian Conroy, have programmed a number of get togethers at the TUGUN SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB for Wednesday 23rd February 2005, Wednesday 23rd May 2005, Wednesday 24th August 2005 and Wednesday 23 November 2005.

Normal meeting time is 11.30 to 12.00 – Lunch is organised at a cost of \$12.00. Drinks are at your own expense for obvious reasons – some drink more than others, and earlier arrivals are expected to still be able to stand when the others arrive.

Response to subscription renewal

Again our thanks to those members who responded to our reminder to renew their subscriptions and over one third of our financial members had their dues in by the first week in August. A great effort, as it acknowledges the efforts of the volunteers who produce the newsletter and run the museum.

As guaranteed, subs will continue to remain at the original \$20.00, but it will no longer be possible to continue to extend the newsletter to members who are two years in arrears. We now have a number of other avenues and means of raising additional finance, but this must be committed to Museum improvement.

Fees support the subsidised outings for members, particularly the surviving partners of members (241), and the production of the newsletter. Fees also enable us to upgrade and modernise some of our older computer equipment to assist with the museum development and history preservation. Where new items are located and considered necessary for inclusion in our collection these are also purchased using these funds.

In conjunction with the terms of the Federal grant received from the National Library of Australia - we are expected to contribute \$ for \$ to the methods of preserving this history, and a budget has been established for this purpose from the subscriptions.

Subscription to the Club and Museum equates to 1/2 a cent per day and when you see the work now completed this is a very small contribution to preserving the history of a great airline.

YOUR FINANCIAL STATUS APPEARS ON THE ENVELOPE – the prefixed by FM - then the last year (2 or 3 or 4 or 5) you were financial. FMW, FMS, FMC codes relate to Widows, Secretaries, & Complimentary categories.

Another Joke

A 'show and tell' session at primary school, the children were asked what they had had for breakfast, and the first child said "bacon and eggs" the second said "cereal" and the third said "bugger all".

The teacher said "that's not very nice" and just for that you must tell me where the South Australian border is. The child replied "in bed with Mum, that's why I had bugger all for breakfast".

TAA returns – It had to happen but it is not the way we expected it. TAA has been finally acknowledged as a historic identity with the issue of number plates commencing with TAA.

It inspired a number of our members to apply for special plates, two of which appear here, and a third that reserved 'TAA 727' which has been offered for sale through the 25 Year Club.

These two plates are unique as they have 'Up Up and Away' where normally "Victoria The Place to be" would have appeared.

Who owns these two plates? Bill and Cliff Sedgman.



October outing – Cuckoo Restaurant

Another great day enjoyed by club members on 6th of October. A tour through the Dandenong ranges, morning tea at the Dolls House, (Bill and Marney Sharp (Bill served his time 'on the buses')) then a smorgasbord lunch at the Cuckoo before returning home about 4.00 PM.

The entertainment committee continues to excel.

Vale

Bill Pellow - Traffic Melbourne (Townsville) June 2004

Doug Alcott – Melbourne Maintenance (Perth) August 2004

Neil Smith - Chairman ANAC - August 2004

Pat Thomas - Cargo Victoria - August 2004

Barry Harrison - Sales Victoria September 2004.

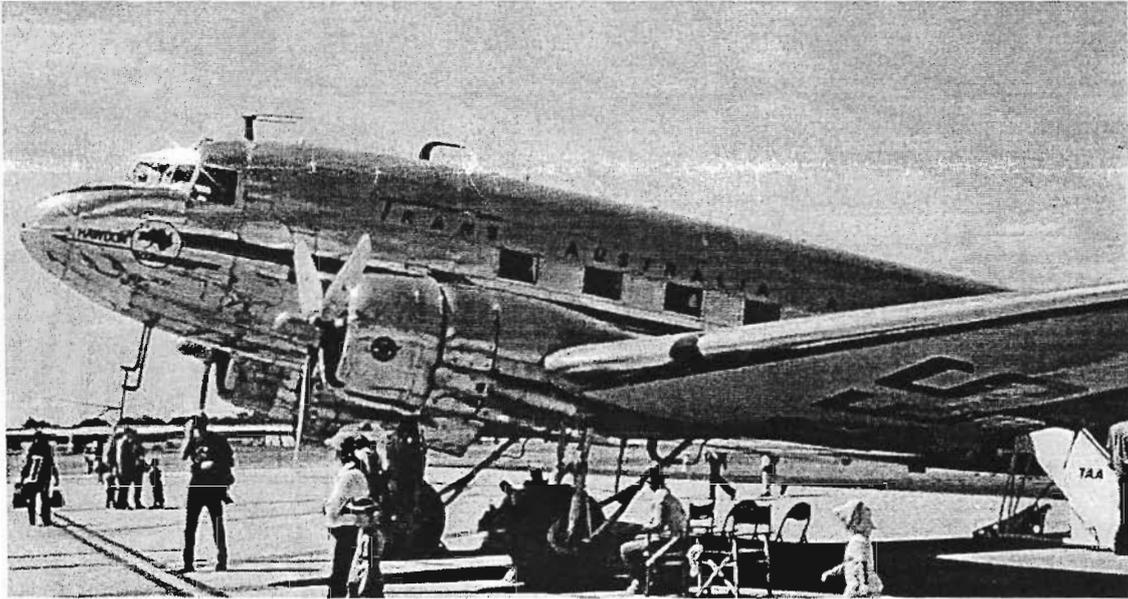
Capt David Curtis - Flight Operations - Melbourne - September 2004

Capt Bob Newman Flight Operations Melbourne September 2004

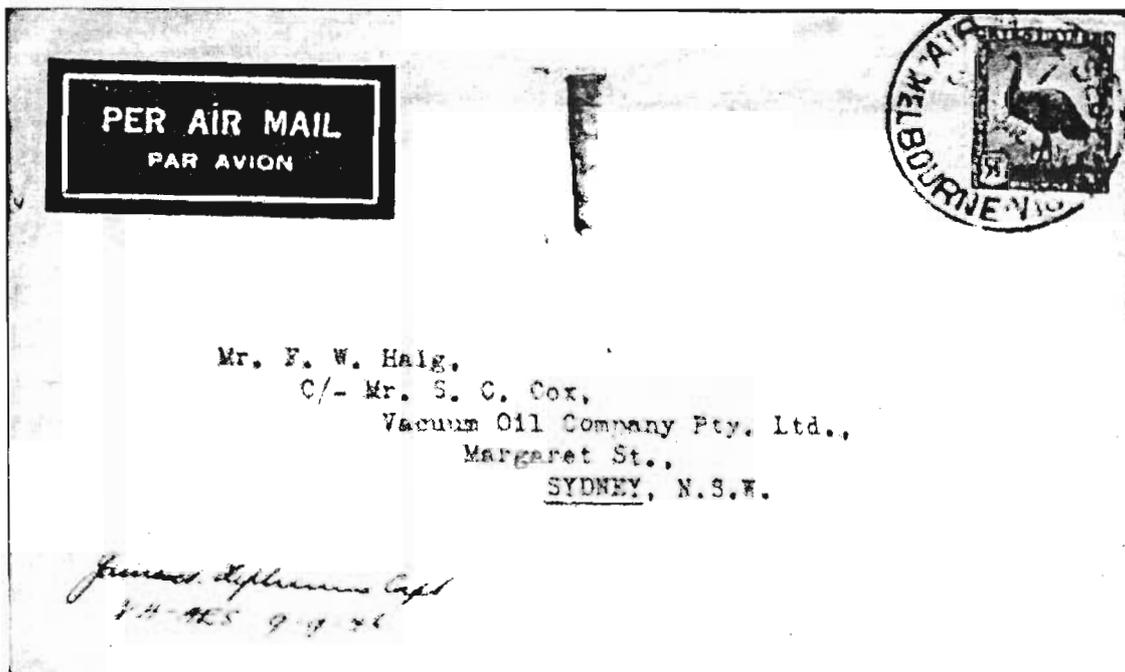
Bill Barnes – Finance Head Office – September 2004.

Eric Manley – Head Office Administration – October 2004.

The members of your committee and the volunteers at the museum take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a healthy, safe and prosperous festive season, and trust that the new year will continue the close associations and friendships that have persisted over the years.



VH-AES on tarmac, spick and span and still ready for inspection – 2003 Avalon Victoria



Letter carried on the first flight and signed by Captain James Hepburn on 9th September 1946.